

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6755
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 6018

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, GR, TU, US
SUBJ: REACTION TO PRESS REPORTS CLAIMING THAT PRESIDENT CARTER
IS SAYING GREECE ACCEPTS THE LIFTING OF THE TURKISH ARMS
EMBARGO

1. SEVERAL OPPOSITION PAPERS GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE JULY 14
TO A REPORT FROM NEW YORK ALLEGING THAT THE CARTER AD-
MINISTRATION WAS MAINTAINING THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT
IS NOT OPPOSED TO THE LIFTING OF THE TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO.
IN THE ONLY GOG REACTION SO FAR, A GOVERNMENT SOURCE IS QUOTED
AS SAYING THAT THE GOG'S POSITION ON THE EMBARGO HAS BEEN
REPEATEDLY DEFINED BY PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS IN STATE-
MENTS HE HAS MADE IN GREECE AS WELL AS IN WASHINGTON WHEN
HE MET WITH PRESIDENT CARTER (BUT THE SOURCE DID NOT
SPELL OUT THE SPECIFICS OF THE GOG POSITION).

2. THE ALLEGATION THAT THE WHITE HOUSE WAS TAKING THE
LINE GREECE WILL ACCEPT THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WAS FIRST
CARRIED IN OPPOSITION TO VIMA THIS MORNING. THE PAPER'S
NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT, EFSTATHIADIS, CLAIMED
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TO HAVE A COPY OF A MEMORANDUM FROM AMERICAN LEGION
(OR POSSIBLY SOME OTHER VETERANS ORGANIZATION) NATIONAL COMMANDER
FRANK RUGGIERO TO HIS REGIONAL COMMANDERS DATED MAY 23, 1978.
THE MEMORANDUM WAS SAID TO HAVE REPORTED ON A MEETING BETWEEN THE
PRESIDENT, NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR BRZEZINSKI AND SENIOR
STATE AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WITH RUGGIERO (AND
PRESUMABLY OTHER VETERANS ORGANIZATION OFFICERS) IN WHICH IT WAS

CLAIMED THE ADMINISTRATION HAD RECEIVED ASSURANCES GREECE WOULD NOT OPPOSE THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO. THE MEMORANDUM REPORTEDLY ALSO NOTED THAT THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WILL IMPROVE TURKEY'S RELATIONS WITH NATO, PERMIT GREECE AND TURKISH DEFENSE OF THE BOSPORUS SHOULD RUSSIA ATTEMPT TO INTERVENE MILITARILY IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND WOULD CLEAR THE WAY FOR US\$140 MILLION IN MILITARY AID TO GREECE AND US\$175 MILLION TO TURKEY.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE HEARD THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE UNHAPPINESS AT THE MFA OVER THE TO VIMA STORY BUT HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM THIS. NO GOG OFFICIAL HAS APPROACHED US ON THE SUBJECT SO FAR. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, IT IS CLEAR THERE IS FAIRLY WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE, AT LEAST AMONG JOURNALISTS, THAT THE MEMORANDUM REFERRED TO BY EFSTATHIADIS ACCURATELY DESCRIBES WHAT WAS SAID AT THE WHITE HOUSE MEETING WITH VETERANS ORGANIZATION LEADER RUGGIERO.
MILLS

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: REPORTS, PRESIDENT, PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, ARMS EMBARGO, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
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Draft Date: 14 jul 1978
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